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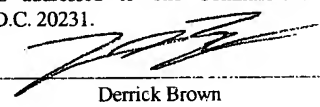
FILE: 5259-14600

August 1, 2003

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Derrick Brown

ATTN: PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Re: U.S. Patent Application Entitled "SPINAL IMPLANT" -- Webb et al.

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is a disclosure including a title page, a 19-page specification, 11 pages of claims (Claims 1-95), and a one page abstract. In addition, we have also included 17 drawings on 8 sheets (figures 1-13D). The disclosure and drawings constitute the application of Scott A. Webb, Anthony P. Moreno, Margaret E. Mitchell, and Aaron C. Smith for the above-entitled invention.

Please note that this application is filed without an inventor Declaration and filing fees. Applicant requests the Patent and Trademark Office to accept this application and accord a serial number and filing date as of the date this application is deposited with the U.S. Postal Service for Express Mail. Further, the Applicant requests that the NOTICE OF MISSING PARTS-FILING DATE GRANTED be sent to the undersigned Applicant representative.

Commissioner for Patents

August 1, 2003

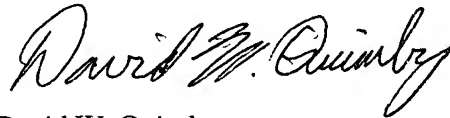
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Please address all correspondence in connection with this application to customer number 35690:

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Please date stamp and return the enclosed postcard to evidence receipt of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David W. Quimby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David W. Quimby  
Reg. No. 39,338  
Attorney for Applicant

EBM:bgb  
Enclosures